

Timpanogos Mfg. Co	1872
↓ Provo Mfg Co	1873
Provo Woolen Mills	1889
Knight Woolen Mills	1910

On leave

Colony

8126.

✓ Cool D Smith

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10

70th Anniversary

~~Catherine Smith Miller (A.G.)~~

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The Mills' History Is Provo's Story

One of the first important manufacturing establishments in the Territory of Utah was the Provo Woolen Mills. Its history reflects the history of Provo, and of Utah.

For instance, the idea of establishing the firm was first mentioned in Priesthood discussions of the LDS Church.

In the minutes of a Priesthood meeting held on June 13, 1869, Utah Stake President A. O. Smoot said, "This woolen mill which President Brigham Young desires us to build will be a great blessing to us. We have all the elements, also the artisans here for the manufacture of everything we need."

Timpanogos Manufacturing

A company called the Timpanogos Manufacturing Company was organized in 1869.

The site chosen for the mill is now the Ashton block. It was chosen because a flour mill, owned by John Taylor of Salt Lake City, was already located there, and the Mill Race which then ran along Second West street could furnish the necessary power.

The buildings were completed in the spring of 1872 at a cost of \$155,000.

For the purchase of machinery, President Brigham Young advanced over \$70,000 in cash. F. Loughery of Philadelphia was engaged to

install machinery and direct its operation.

In 1873 the company re-incorporated and became known as the Provo Manufacturing Company. The company's stockholders at that time included Brigham Young, 3600 shares; A. O. Smoot, 320; Myron Tanner, 169; William Bringhurst, 120; John Taylor, 252, and Joseph S. Tanner, 120. Many others also held shares, but only 56 per cent of the stock was paid up.

Changes Name Again

In 1889 the name of the organization was again changed, this time to the Provo Woolen Mills Company. Early superintendents included Myron Tanner, James Dunn, and Reed Smoot.

Employees for the mill came from England and Scotland where they had been trained in cloth production. Most of them were converts to the LDS Church and the Provo industry gave them a chance to raise their families in Utah.

Payment in Scrip

During the early years of its operation, the lack of money in the Territory forced the company to pay its employees in scrip, redeemable in cloth and general merchandise.

The cloth scrip was redeemed at the mills or at the Co-op stores
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FOR MANY YEARS THE LARGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL business in Provo, and even in the whole territory of Utah, the Provo Woolen Mills was located on what is now the Ashton Chevrolet block. The plant was one year old when Lincoln was assassinated. Roosevelt, Wilson

and Kaiser Bill were still lads in short breeches when it first began producing bats of cloth. Products from the mills were sold from New York to San Francisco, and from Canada to Mexico. Despite fire, rising costs, and heated competition, the mill survived for well over half a century.



THE ALARMS CLANGED, THE FIRE TRUCK BELL BANGED, and everybody called the fire department. Provo's largest industry, in full wartime production was up in

flames! The day was July 30, 1918. And, as luck would have it, there was no water in the old mill stream to help firemen fight the blaze.

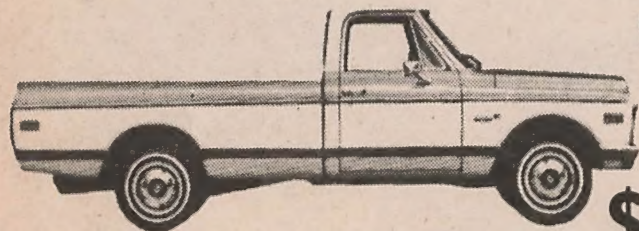


FIREMEN BATTLED the blaze for over 19 hours. But they were only able to save the weave shed and office buildings. Hundreds of men and boys answered the call for help, but

a water shortage and the grease covered walls of the building soon made all efforts to save it helpless. (Photos furnished by A. W. Adamson.)

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